09-1835 8021 TOUGH, JOHN A. FAMILY

Elayne Tough Matheny and Hyla Marjorie Tough McDonald are Interviewed by volunteers; Tiffany Reis and Stacy Ruppert, two Sonoma State College Students.

INTERVIEWER: Let's start off with your full name and your maiden name.

Tough: My name is Elayne Tough Matheny, mine is Hyla Tough McDonald.

INTERVIEWER: And your sister's right, which one is older?

Tough: Yes, Hyla, I'm 86 and she's 70 something.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have any other sisters or brothers?

Tough: We have a brother who passed away in 2000 and a sister who passed away in 1980 and we have another sister who lives in Rohnert Park.

INTERVIEWER: And what were your parent's names?

Tough: Jack and Inez Tough just like it sounds. Our mothers name is Inez Oftahage Halverson.

INTERVIEWER: Have you lived in Sebastopol your life or were you born here?

Tough: I (Elayne) was born here and Hyla was born in Minnesota. Our parents were from there and then they came to Sebastopol. Mom thought she was round 8 yrs. Old when they came, so that would around 1923.

INTERVIEWER: You drove across the states right, how long did that take you?

Tough: Our dad did, we had the darnedest old car with a rumble seat that was open. It had ivory windows. It rained!

INTERVIEWER: Why did they want to come to Sebastopol?

Tough: They wanted to come to California with the rest of the family. Mother's relatives lived here, Aunt Lizzy and Uncle Frank (grandpa's brother Halverson). Mother was Norwegian and daddy was Scott, Irish and Dutch. We're a mixture.

INTERVIEWER: What did your dad do?

Tough: Our dad did mechanic work for several years and then he was a welder. Later he went into business with his brother; they had Tough Brother's Garage. Located on the corner of Petaluma Ave. and Burnett. When we were in Minnesota our father was a wood carpenter.

INTERVIEWER: What grammar school did you go to?

Tough: I (Elayne) went to Sebastopol Grammar School, kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grade, then I went out to Cunningham at Mt. Vernon for 3rd to 7th, then came back to Sebastopol and graduated there. Then I went to Analy High School. I graduated from Analy in 1944. Then I went to Santa Rosa JC for 1 ½ years.

I (Hyla) probably went to 1st or 2nd grade. I graduated from Analy High School in 1935. I went right to El Rey Theatre and I was a cashier for many years. Then I went to Santa Rosa to the Tower Theatre.

(Deanne Dei ?) Mom used to tell me that kids would come up to her when she was selling tickets and they wouldn't have any money and would stand there with a sad face and she would go ahead and pay their tickets. It was only $.15 cents.

I think it was a dime to start, because I (Elayne) used to cashier there too and also usherette, what back when I was in high school. I also worked in the candy store first in the El Rey.

You worked at Sprouts Reis and I (Elayne) worked at Carlson's.

We used to pack apples too.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember how much you got paid to pick apples?

Tough: We didn't pick them we wrapped them and put them in a box. We got $.10 a box. And we could do close to 200 a day. One of my first checks was almost $100, that was in 1941. I even worked there after I got married for some time. That was the big thing back then, the packing houses, apples. Now we have grapes.

Deanne: The building where the movie theatre is was the old packing house.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have any childhood memories, teachers?

Tough: I can't think of anything right now.

Deanne: You told me a story about you and dad leaving the Grove Theatre and Hall, a wonderful dance hall in Guerneville, With live music and dancing. When they got out it was very foggy and they were going over this bridge by Odd

Fellows Lodge, I don't know if there was something wrong with the bridge or not, but the car went into the river and my dad couldn't swim. And mother saved his life by swimming to the other side.

INTERVIEWER: Is she the only child?

Tough: Of that marriage.

INTERVIEWER: How many times have you been married?

Tough: Twice and I have three children. And I have two children and two grandchildren. I got married in 1946; my husbands name is Robert Matheny.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember how you went?

Tough: We had some friends who owned Western Cleaners on Main Street and they introduced us to Roberts mother and step-dad and when we got out of the service and came to visit them and that's how I met him.

(Hyla) I don't remember when I got married. (Elayne) You were married the same year a me and both of us in November. You were married November 22 and we were married November 9th 1946. We got married out over where the mortuary is. The mortuary used to be our Sebastopol Congregational Church, but now it a mortuary. Quite a switch. I was so sad when they tore that church down. It was before 1960.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember your grandparents, did they come to Sebastopol after you left Minnesota?

Tough: Our grandfather lived here for a while then he moved to Stockton and our grandmother lived in Washington, they were separated. That's on my mom's side.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of questions did you answer from the written sheet they gave you?

Tough: Well they asked where our parents were born which was Hill City, Minnesota. I (Elayne) was born November 2, 1926. When were you born Hyla? I was born January 3, 1916, so I'm 86.

Our dad had a place on Main Street, then he had a place on McKinley Ave. then he moved out to Sebastopol Rd. where he had his own business, about where Sebastopol Welding Work is.

INTERVIEWER: Was your mom a housewife?

Tough: Yes, the only time she worked was packing apples in the summer. She was very social, she belonged to Sebastopol Congregational Church women's group and also the Epiphany Sisters. She was very active, she made aprons for the bazaars, and she was a very good seamstress. She would embroidery dishtowels make candy. She made wonderful divinity and pies.

INTERVIEWER: I know a lot of schools would have bake sales; did she make them for those?

Tough: No she would make them mostly for the Epiphany Sisters. They would have their bazaars and through the church. During the apple fair here the church would have a booth and people would donate pies so that they could be sold.

When I was young I belonged to the Sebastopol of Rainbow for Girls and so did Deanne.

INTERVIEWER: What did they do?

Tough: I was just a girls organization. A service group.

INTERVIEWER: Was it like Girl Scouts?

Tough: Yes, but for older girls.

Deanne: They had a ritual and it was secretive.

INTERVIEWER: Did you do anything in High School, any activities?

Tough: Yes, I (Elayne) was in two school plays and basketball, tennis, hockey.

INTERVIEWER: Did you walk to school?

Tough: When I went to Sebastopol we walked, but when we went to Cunningham then we had a teacher (Norma Faught) right across the street and they would take us. Judy and Ted also went to school there. There was another teacher that came from Santa Rosa and she would take turns taking us to school, he name was Mrs. Remlin.

Deanne: Now mom and I had the same teachers in high school. Miss Snip, Minnie Gale, Mr. Warwood and Mr. Irish. Miss Burmister was our gym teacher.

INTERVIEWER: Did you every ride the railroad when it was here?

Tough: Yes, Hyla would remember that better than I. It used to go from Petaluma and Santa Rosa. The fellow who ran the Petaluma Branch knew my parents very well. We had more fun on that railroad; we could ride anywhere we wanted to go.

Elayne: Where the museum is now used to we our train depot. And we used to roller skate all around, in an out of that place.

INTERVIEWER: What house were you living in then?

Tough: On Main Street, we all grew up in that house. It's on the corner at the bottom of Calder. And the house next door to that I was born in that house. I was born in Sebastopol in that house. And my mothers best friend was her midwife, her name was Amelia Rounell. And she was the one who named me. Elayne Loraine.

INTERVIEWER: Are you (Hyla) the oldest of the family?

Tough: My oldest sister was the one who passed away in 1980, her name was Genevieve Silveria. And our brother was Ted Faught and he passed away in 2000. Our sister was 67 when she died and our brother was 81.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have any memories of your dad, I know you said he was a mechanic, but was he strict was he the one who did the punishing?

Tough: He was very strict and we knew it, so we were pretty darn careful of what we did and what we didn't do.

I remember Jen and I used to go to daddy and we would go into the meat market, Moore's Meat Market on Sebastopol Rd., and mom said we have to get this and that and we didn't have the money, but they would let us buy what we needed to buy. They would say now remember don't go over your amount. That was before checking accounts.

Deanne: What about the story of Aunt Jen? She would sneak out on a date and the time would pass. Tell me what would happen to her.

She would put a ladder up to the bedroom and she would climb up there. One time daddy caught her one time and then he would make sure the ladder wasn't available.

Elayne: I'll tell you something about our dad. When I was only 21 days old my dad went hunting. His gun backfired and he lost two fingers, they have him this terrible shot. Finally he banged his hand against the wall and gang green set in and he had to have his hand up to his wrist. He raised five children with this

handicap. He worked as a mechanic, he had one of those pinchers to hold things with. He worked awfully hard for having only one hand.

(Background voices) There goes Pete Hill. He ran the Longs Drugstore.

I still have girlfriends that we get together, two of them live near Sacramento and four of us live in this area and we get together every once in a while to have lunch. Then we have our class reunions, I've always been the head of our class reunions of 44 and get together and we get together with five or six other classes. And we've had many reunions of Analy High School. We've really had a good time.

INTERVIEWER: Were you a president of the class?

Tough: (Elayne) No I wasn't but I was a yell leader for four years, I mean a cheer leader and I was even a cheer leader at Santa Rosa JC.

Three of the girls we get together with were in my wedding party. We've really stuck together.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have any dances or social gatherings while you were in high school?

Tough: Elayne: Yes, we used to have lots of dances and of course the old Prom's. We would have them in the Gymnasium. That gym has been torn down. They have a bigger new and better one.

Deanne: Do you remember where you worked, mom, as a young woman? Stenographer?

Downtown? No before that.

Hyla: I worked at the Naval Base and at Mare Island during the war.

Eylane: I also worked as at secretary/receptionist/stenographer for Wetch and Sturns and Best & Feaks and in Santa Rosa at the Social Services Office. And I had the Apple Blossom column for the Press Democrat, for six years, after Emily Frazer. I wanted to call it the Apple Sass, but they didn't let me. They stuck to the Apple Blossom Column.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have any memories of the Apple Blossom Parade?

Tough: Elayne: Oh yeah, way back then. Hyla: We've been to many parades, even as school kids. They would take camera pictures. Elayne: I remember one grade – we lived out in the country and I had taken the children to the parade, so when I thought they were ready to come and started into town and

the Twin Hills Fire Dept. were going to a fire and they went past me and knock off the road and pulled off my hole bumper. I was so frightened on the way to pick up the kids. They didn't stop at all, but they found out about it because I had reported it to the fire dept. What was so uncanny, I worked at Beast & Feaks Ins. and we carried their insurance. So I went right to my boss and told them.

END OF TAPE